

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
TREASURY
GOV GUAM

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ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 22 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1.JAPAN

US FORMALLY TELLS JAPAN GAP EXISTS BETW 2 NATIONS ON GOJ'S
PROPOSED MEASURES CUT TRADE SURPLUS W/US. FON MINISTRY
SOURCES SAID 12/22 AMEMB MINISTER-COUNSELLOR JACK BUTTON
MADE KNOWN US POSITION ON JAPAN'S 8-PT SURPLUS-TRIMMING PKG
WHEN HE VISITED FON MINISTRY WEDS. SOURCES SAID TOKYO
EXPECTED REPLY EARLY NEXT WK TO LATEST US POSITION, DETAILS
OF WHICH UNDISCLOSED (REUTER TOKYO).
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JOC'S CULLISON (TOKYO) REPORTS GOJ AUTHORITIES EXPECTING
RECEIVE DETAILED PROPOSAL FROM US W/IN NEXT FEW DAYS OUTLIN-
ING MEASURES WASHINGTON WOULD LIKE SEE TAKEN IN ORDER SETTLE
TRADE DISPUTE W/JAPAN- FUKUDA ADMIN SOURCES SAY JAPAN MIGHT
ADD TO PREVIOUSLY-PROPOSED 8-PT PKG, BUT EMPHASIZED GOJ
CONSIDERS IT HAS TAKEN BULK OF POSSIBLE MEASURES/CANNOT DO
MUCH MORE.

FORECAST COMPILED BY ECON PLANNING AGENCY/APPROVED BY CABI-
NET FORMALLY SETS 7 PCT ECON GROWTH TARGET FOR FY78. MEAN-

WHILE, JAPANESE AGRIC/FORESTRY MIN REJECTED POSSIBILITY OF

JAPAN INCREASING IMPORTS US AGRIC PRODUCTS TO HELP RESOLVE
TRADE IMBALANCE (REUTER'S KERR, TOKYO 12/21). CULLISON
ADDS MOST JAPANESE PVT ECONOMISTS DOUBT NEW FY78 PROGRAM
WILL SUCCEED, BUT FUKUDA ADMIN APPARENTLY CONFIDENT 1-BIL-
DOL BOP DEFICIT/6.8 PCT CONSUMER PRICE HIKE/7 PCT GROWTH ALL
CAN OCCUR.

AFTER WK-LONG MTGS W/ADMIN OFFICIALS/ CONGRESSMEN, JAPANESE
SEN NAKAO SAID 12/21 CONGRESSMEN HAVE RESPONDED ENTHUSI-
ASTICALLY TO HIS PROPOSAL FOR US-JAPAN CONF ON AGRICULTURAL
ASPECTS OF TRADE IMBALANCE. ADDED THAT UPON RETURN TO
TOKYO, HE WILL PREPARE FORMAL PROPOSAL FOR SUCH CONF. NAKAO
ALSO STATED HE/USDA SEC BERGLAND DISCUSSED ALTERNATIVES TO
FARM IMPORTS AS MEANS LESSEN TRADE SURPLUS (REUTER 12/21).

WP'S ROWEN SAYS INTERVIEWS W/USG OFFICIALS INDICATE THERE IS
NOW GOOD PROBABILITY STRAUSS WILL VISIT TOKYO NEXT MONTH FOR
NEW STAGE US/JAPAN TRADE TALKS. CITES STRAUSS' DEP WOLFF,
WHO HAS PREDICTED ISSUES BETW WASHINGTON/TOKYO WOULD BE
"SETTLED" EARLY NEXT YR.
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USSR/JAPAN HAVE DECIDED EXTEND FOR 1 YR AGREEMENT ON FISHING
CATCHES IN EACH OTHER'S 200-MI COASTAL ZONES, LEAVING QUO-
TAS UNCHANGED FROM 1977 (REUTER MOSCOW, 12/21).

TOKYO FON MINISTRY SOURCES SAY JAPANESE-CANADIAN TALKS ON
OTTAWA'S DEMAND FOR STRICTER SAFEGUARDS OVER CANADIAN
URANIUM SOLD TO JAPAN NOW IN CLOSING STAGE. NATIONS EX-
PECTED HOLD NEXT ROUND FORMAL TALKS EARLY JANUARY, FOLLOW-
ING 3 DAYS TALKS IN OTTAWA WHICH ENDED 12/21 (REUTER TOKYO).

2. JAPAN/CHINA

JOC REPORTS US HAS GIVEN HITACHI TENTATIVE GREEN LIGHT TO
SELL PRC 3 HIGHCAPACITY COMPUTERS FOR METEOROLOGICAL USE.
ASAHI QUOTED "USUALLY WELL INFORMED SOURCES IN WASHINGTON"
THAT GO-AHEAD GIVEN LAST SUNDAY. COMPUTERS MOST ADVANCED
JAPANESE MODELS, W/ESTIMATED VALUE OVER 10 MIL DOLS.

3. CHINA

CHIEF PAKISTAN'S GOVT, GEN ZIA UL-HAQ, LEFT PEKING 12/20
FOR HOME AFTER INFORMAL PRC VISIT. NCNA SAID TENG/HUANG
HUA SAW ZIA OFF AT AIRPORT (LAT).

PRC SENT TRADE MISSION TO ITALY IN SECOND HALF NOVEMBER
FOR 12-DAY TOUR PLANTS/FOR DISCUSSIONS ON EXPANDING EX-
CHANGE BETW ROME/PEKING (JOC ROME).

4. AUSTRALIA

SUCCEEDING GOUGH WHITLAM, FORMER AUSTRALIAN TREASURER BILL HAYDEN ELECTED LEADER OF PARLIAMENTARY LABOR PARTY OPPOSITION 12/22 (REUTER CANBERRA).

STOVE (JOC SYDNEY) REPORTS PRESSURE BEING APPLIED ONCE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGAIN TO AUSTRALIAN CURRENCY FOR DEVALUATION. MAJOR EXPORT INDUSTRIES AGITATING FOR DEVALUATION TO COMPENSATE FOR INCOME DROP, WHICH EXPECTED BECOME WORSE DURING 1978. GOA HOPES AVERT INFLATIONARY SITUATION WHICH DEVELOPED LAST NOVEMBER WHEN CURRENCY DEVALUED 17.5 PCT.

IN SEPARATE ITEM, STOVE STATES DECLINING SUGAR PRICES IN NY MKT RECENTLY HAVE NOT HELPED AUSSIE NEGOTIATORS TRYING REACH PRICE SETTLEMENT W/MALAYSIA; NOR HAS SLIDE IMPRESSED JAPAN/SINGAPORE/NZ/SK TO BE SATISFIED W/THEIR LONG-TERM SUGAR CONTRACTS W/AUSTRALIA. NOTES MALAYSIA ALREADY HAS DEFERRED SOME SHIPMENTS FROM AUSTRALIA/MAY FOLLOW JAPANESE EXAMPLE AND REFUSE ACCEPT AUSTRALIAN SUGAR UNTIL CONTRACT RE-NEGOTIATED.

5. INDOCHINA/THAILAND

LAOTIAN/VN FORCES HAVE STEPPED UP ATTACKS ON MOUNTAIN STRONGHOLDS OF DISSIDENT MEO TRIBESMEN IN LAOS, FORCING THOUSANDS FLEE TO THAILAND. THAI SPOKESMAN SAYS THOUSANDS HAVE FLED ACROSS MEKONG IN LAST 2 DAYS; "BANGKOK POST" REPORTS 3,000 LIVING IN BORDER TOWN NONG KHAI. REUTER (BANGKOK) SAYS TRIBESMEN OVER LAST 2 YRS HAVE KEPT UP SPORADIC ARMED RESISTANCE TO GOVT, WHICH APPEARS HAVE DECIDED MAKE FINAL DRIVE STAMP THEM OUT, BACKED BY VIET TROOPS STATIONED IN LAOS.

RTG SUPREME COMMAND ANNOUNCES ITS PLANES/ARTILLERY HAVE ATTACKED CAMBODIAN POSITIONS IN RETALIATION FOR CONTINUED CAMBODIAN ARMY ATTACKS ON BORDER VILLAGES. IN OTHER ACTION, CAMBODIA SHOT DOWN THAI MIL PLANE WEDS, BUT CREWMEN PARACHUTED TO SAFETY (WP; REUTER'S AMORN UNCLASSIFIED

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12/21, BOTH BANGKOK).

6. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

REGIONAL HC FOR REFUGEES ANNOUNCES HOMES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN AUSTRALIA/US/France/HOLLAND FOR MORE THAN 75

PCT OF 4,000 VIET REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA; 2,400 DESTINED FOR US (AP KL, LAT 12/21).

ACCORDING NYT'S GWERTZMAN, WH HAS AUTHORIZED DOS ASK ATTY GENRL TO USE PAROLE AUTHORITY TO ADMIT 7,000 BOAT PEOPLE STRANDED IN ASIA, INSTEAD OF 10,000 ORIGINALLY DESIRED BY DOS. REASON FOR CUT SUPPOSEDLY BUDGETARY; BUT SOME SAY DECISION LINKED TO BUREAUCRATIC INFIGHTING DUE TO WH DISPLEASURE OVER ANNOUNCEMENT OF ORIGINAL DECISION BY NYT BEFORE MATTER DECIDED OFFICIALLY. THESE PEOPLE SAY VANCE DECIDED PROPOSE ADMISSION 7,000 SINCE THAT'S AMOUNT OF MONEY READILY AVAILABLE.

7. MALAYSIA

GOM SAYS COCKPIT VOICE RECORDER FROM HIJACKED MALAYSIAN AIRLINER WHICH CRASHED 2 WKS AGO, KILLING ALL 100 ON BOARD, FOUND UNDER 12 FT MUD AT CRASH SITE IN JOHORE/BEING SENT BRITAIN FOR ANALYSIS. IS HOPED RECORDER, IN ADDITION FLIGHT DATA RECORDER RECOVERED LAST WK, WILL SHED LIGHT ON CAUSE OF ACCIDENT (REUTER KL).

8. INDONESIA

HIRC MEMBER FRASER (D-MINN) SAID 12/21 THAT INDO'S RELEASE 10,000 POL PRISONERS REPRESENTS "HOPEFUL STEP" TOWARD FULL COMPLIANCE W/INTL HUMAN RTS. SAID HE HAS ASKED GOI PERMIT INTL ORGS INTERVIEW RELEASED DETAINEES TO HELP DETERMINE FULL EXTENT RELEASE PROGRAM (REUTER 12/21).

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NATL SECURITY CHIEF SUDOMO SAYS INDO'S CAMPAIGN "OPERATION ORDER" TO STOP CORRUPTION/ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES IS SUCCESS. IN RECENT MOS, HUNDREDS OFFICIALS IN JAKARTA/ PROVINCES HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATED/DISMISSED. SUDOMO SAYS CAMPAIGN WILL CONTINUE FOR 10 YRS W/ULTIMATE AIM OF ACHIEVING CLEAN GOVT (LORENZ, JOC SINGAPORE).

GOI HAS ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE IBM SCHEME TO ENABLE FIRM MAINTAIN PRESENCE IN INDO AFTER END OF YR. IBM PROPOSES APPOINT INTL AGENT TO TRADE ON ITS BEHALF (COOPER, JOC).

9. PHILIPPINES

FILIPINO GUNMAN WOUNDED/OVERPOWERED THURS AFTER HOLDING 14 HOSTAGES AT GUNPOINT FOR 2 1/2 DAYS IN SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE BANK. FIRST REPORTS INDICATED SOME OF HOSTAGES ABLE RUSH GUNMAN; US MARINES SURROUNDING BANK THEN STORMED BLDG/ARRESTED GUNMAN WHO SUFFERED GUNSHOT WOUND; 3 HOSTAGES ALSO INJURED. BELIEVED FORMER

EMPLOYEE OF BASE, GUNMAN SAID HE WANTED MONEY/GETAWAY
HELICOPTER (REUTER'S CABIE, SUBIC BAY; ALSO UPI, WP
W/FOTO; AP MANILA, SUN; NYDN SUBIC BAY; LAT 12/21).
W/FOTO; AP MANILA, SUN; NYDN SUBIC BAY; LAT 12/21).

PRES OF MIL COURT WHICH SENTENCED AQUINO ORDERED TUES
TO APPEAR FOR SUPREME COURT HEARING 1/31 (AP MANILA,
LAT 12/21).

MARCOS ANNOUNCES NATL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN '78 IN
LINE W/PLEDGE TO DISMANTLE MARTIAL LAW (WSJ; WP MANILA).
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PHILS/CANADA HAVE RATIFIED NEW TREATY TO AVOID DOUBLE
TAXATION/PREVENT TAX EVASION, WHICH EXPECTED GIVE
COMMERCIAL/FINANCIAL EXCHANGES BETW 2 COUNTRIES FRESH
IMPETUS (WSJ).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

10. JAPAN

LAT EDIT (12/20) WARNS GOJ NOT UNDERESTIMATE SIGNIFICANCE
OF "PROTECTIONIST CANNONADES" FIRED FROM AFL-CIO'S
MEANY AT CONVENTION LAST WK. OPINES CARTER ADMIN'S
UPHILL FIGHT AGAINST PROTECTIONIST TREND IN CONGRESS
WILL BE LOST UNLESS JAPAN BEGINS MOVE AWAY FROM
"HEADS-I-WIN, TAILS-YOU-LOSE" TRADE POLICIES THAT
ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE TO US/JAPAN'S OTHER TRADING
PARTNERS.

NYT EDIT FINDS "DEPRESSING PATTERN" IN FACT US STEEL
FIRMS CHOSE RAISE PRICES BEFORE CARTER ADMIN'S REFERENCE
PRICES ANNOUNCED. SEES STEEL INDUSTRY'S MOVE AS PUTTING
PRESSURE ON ADMIN TO BE GENEROUS IN CONSTRUCTING
REFERENCE PRICE SHIELD. URGES INDUSTRY MEET CARTER
HALF WAY, SAYING REFERENCE PRICING WILL NEVER WORK
UNLESS INDUSTRY "ACTS WITH DISCRETION" ON PRICES.

ON SAME SUBJECT, JOC EDIT SAYS RAISING STEEL PRICES
"NO PANACEA." PREFERS ECON ADVISOR GREENSPAN'S PLAN
FOR CORPORATE TAX CUT TO ALLOW EXPANSION/MODERNIZATION
US INDUSTRY. SAYS GERMAN/JAPANESE INROADS SUGGEST IT
IS TIME GENERATE FUNDS FOR STEEL/OTHER US INDUSTRIES
WHO ARE WILLING MODERNIZE.

11. VIETNAM

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WSTAR'S BRADSHER (12/20) NOTES THAT IN ADDITION TO INTELL AGENTS STRANDED IN VN BY CIA, DIA ALSO ABANDONED AGENTS

IN EVAC--ONE FAILURE NOT PUBLICLY DISCUSSED, HE SAYS. CLAIMS DIA ACTION NOTED IN "AFTER-ACTION REPORT"--KEPT SECRET--ON HOW DIFFERENT PARTS OF DOD ACTED DURING FALL VN. SAYS SOURCES ESTIMATE DIA LEFT BEHIND 100-200 VIET AGENTS, BUT INCLINATION HAS BEEN "TO TURN AWAY" FROM DEBACLE RATHER THAN EXAMINE WHAT WENT WRONG. SAYS BOTH HOUSE/SENATE INTELL CMTE'S TAKING FRESH LOOK AT INTELL PROBLEMS CONNECTED W/EVAC, RESULT OF SNEPP'S BOOK, BUT HAVE AVOIDED QUESTIONING HANDLING OF EVACUATION ITSELF.

12. INDONESIA

CSM EDIT APPLAUDS GOI RELEASE 10,000 POL PRISONERS, SAYS IT GIVES ENCOURAGEMENT THAT SUHARTO WILL COMPLETE HIS PROGRAM OF FREEING ALL POL PRISONERS/SHOWS GROWING CONFIDENCE IN COUNTRY'S POL/ECON STABILITY. OBSERVES IT CAN BE ASSUMED SUHARTO IS ACTING OUT OF GENUINE BELIEF THAT TO PERPETUATE SUCH POL OPPRESSION IS NOT IN HIS COUNTRY'S BEST INTERESTS--"FOR THIS HE DESERVES CREDIT."

13. SINGAPORE

REUTER'S KWEE (SINGAPORE 12/20) DOES FEATURE ON COLORFUL CRAFTSMEN WHO ARE DISAPPEARING FROM STREETS OF MODERN SINGAPORE. "AS SKYSCRAPERS GO UP," HE SAYS, "OLD SHOP HOUSES OF CHINATOWN COME DOWN"/FAMILIAR TRADITIONAL FIGURES ARE BEING SQUEEZED OUT OF OLD JOBS, HAUNTS. TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION ON STREET TRADES, TOURIST PROMO BOARD HAS PUT TOGETHER EXHIBITION AT HANDICRAFT CENTER W/3 FLOORS SHOPS/EXHIBITION ROOMS. AMONG OLD TRADES ON DIS-UNCLASSIFIED

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PLAY ARE CHINESE OPERA MASK MAKING, LANTERN MAKING, CALLIGRAPHY, FORTUNE TELLING, PEDDLING OF MOVIES ON WHEELS.

14. PHILIPPINES

SOME OF WORLD'S MOST COLORFUL FORMS PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOUND IN MANILA, BUT MANY ILLEGAL/CAUSE OF MULTIPLE PROBLEMS, ACCORDING CSM'S BICKLER (MANILA 12/19). SAYS FOR YRS CITY HAS TRIED RATIONALIZE EXPANDING TRANSPORT SYSTEM BUT IT JUST KEEPS GROWING--AND DIVERSIFYING.

15. CHINA

TORONTO GLOBE/MAIL'S MUNRO (CSM) REPORTS 5TH NPC EXPECTED TAKE PLACE MID-FEB, EXPECTED APPROVE REVISED CONSTITUTION/PRESELECTED SLATE OF GOVT LEADERS IN "EXERCISE WHICH

IS SUPPOSED TO CONCLUDE AND LEGITIMIZE THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION" FOLLOWING MAO'S DEATH. CONTENDS CHINA NOW WITNESSING ANOTHER UPSURGE OF POL MANEUVERING, AS LEADERS/

GROUPS ATTEMPT INCREASE POWER BEFORE CONGRESS. ACCORDING TO PEKING REPORTS, MUNRO NOTES, 5TH NPC MAY SEE RESTORATION PRESIDENCY W/POST GOING TO TENG; DEFENSE MINISTER MAY BE APPOINTED; HUA MAY GIVE UP PREMIERSHIP. NPC DELEGATES WILL BE PRESENTED W/SUBSTANTIALLY RESHUFFLED SLATE OF SENIOR GOVT OFFICIALS. SAYS SOME ANALYSTS ALSO SPECULATING ON WHETHER PRC MOVING TOWARD POL CONFRONTATION SIMILAR TO ONE DURING PURGE OF RADICALS IN '76. REPORTS ANALYSTS LINK RIVALRY BETW TENG/HUA KUO-FENG AS POSSIBLE CAUSE OF CONFRONTATION.

MATHEWS (LAT HK 12/20) REPORTS PRC NOW DEBATING WHETHER POST OF PRESIDENCY SHOULD BE REESTABLISHED. SAYS POLITBURO WILLINGNESS OPEN DEBATE OVER PRESIDENCY TO 35 MIL CCP MEMBERS INTERPRETED BY SOME AS SIGN OF MORE DEMOCRACY IN POL LIFE. ON OTHER HAND, NOTES ALSO POSSIBLE THAT RULERS UNCLASSIFIED

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ENCOURAGING SUCH DISCUSSIONS AS WAY GAIN SUPPORT FOR DECISION ALREADY MADE. TENG SEEN AS LIKELY CANDIDATE FOR POST. BUT MATHEWS CONCLUDES NO MATTER WHO NAMED, ACT OF REESTABLISHING PRESIDENCY IS "GUARANTEED TO STIR CONTROVERSY" SINCE MAO, HIMSELF, ABOLISHED SLOT. SAYS ALSO IF HUA FORCED YIELD PREMIERSHIP OR REINSTITUTE PRESIDENCY, WOULD CONFIRM SUSPICIONS THAT ALTHO HE LENDS NEW REGIME LEGITIMACY AS MAO'S HANDPICKED SUCCESSOR, HIS AUTHORITY NOT EQUAL TO MAO'S.

MATHEWS (WP HK) OBSERVES THAT PRC LEADERSHIP STILL APPEARS PLAGUED BY SAME POL TENSIONS/UNCERTAINTIES IT SUFFERED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MAO'S DEATH. NOTES IN LAST SEVERAL WKS NATION'S NUMBER 2 LEADER/ONE OF ARMY'S MOST IMPORTANT GENERALS DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT/CHIEF OF STRATEGIC NE PROVINCE FIRED AFTER ONLY 10MONTHS IN JOB/"NASTY" RUMORS CIRCULATING IN PEKING ABOUT HEAD OF SECRET POLICE.

MATHEWS NOTES 2 KEY PLAYERS IN DRAMA ARE HUA/TENG, WHO HAVE MANAGED COMPROMISE DIFFERENCE BUT MIDDLEMAN WHO APPARENTLY KEPT THEM TOGETHER--DEFENSE MIN YEH CHIEN-YING--NOT SEEN IN PUBLIC SINCE OCTOBER. FINDS THIS LEADING SOME TO SPECULATE COMPROMISE "MIGHT HAVE BECOME UNSTRUCK."

ON REPLACEMENT HEILUNGKIANG PROVINCIAL CHIEF LIU KUANG-TAO W/NUMBER 2 OFFICIAL YANG I-CHEN, MATHEWS NOTES ORDER SUGGESTED LIU HAD SUPPRESSED CAMPAIGN TO CRITICIZE PROVINCIAL SUPPORTERS OF GANG OF FOUR. BUT REAL CAUSE OF REMOVAL, MATHEWS SUGGESTS, MIGHT LIE W/UNDER-

GROUND ATTEMPT LED BY TENG SUPPORTERS TO UNDERMINE POSITIONS OF POLITBURO MEMBERS TENG DOES NOT LIKE. NOTES
LIU WAS WORKING UNDER MANCHURIAN MIL CMDR LI TEH-SHENG
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HO IS NOT LIKED BY TENG; SAME SORT OF REASON COULD ALSO
BE GIVEN FOR OUTBREAK OF RUMORS IN PEKING REGARDING SECRET
POLICE HEAD WANG TUNG-HSING, MATHEWS OBSERVES.

MORITZ (CSM HK) SEES HK OPENING OF 15-MIL-DOL BRANCH OF
"CHINA PRODUCTS" RETAIL CHAIN AS LATEST EVIDENCE OF PRC'S
GROWING ECON INVOLVEMENT IN HK. AT TIME, HE NOTES, WHEN
LOCAL/FON INVESTORS WONDERING HOW LONG HK'S POSITION AS
CAPITALISTIC COLONY WILL LAST, PRC HAS GONE OUT OF WAY
TO STRESS IT IS IN NO HURRY TO CHANGE HK'S STATUS. NOTES
PRC SEES HK AS NECESSARY SOURCE OF FON EXCHANGE; THAT
LAST YEAR, CHINA EARNED 2.2 BIL DOLS IN FON EXCHANGE FROM
HK. NOTES THAT IN WHAT IS SEEN AS EFFORT REASSURE IN-
VESTORS/STIMULATE HK ECON/AND THEREBY INCREASE PRC'S HK
BUSINESS, PEKING CONTROLLED BANKS/STORES, STEPPED UP
PURCHASES/INVESTMENT IN LAST YEAR. VANCE

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